including the Delhi Group Housing Society, around Patparganj Depot, has been lying unused and locked up, for 8 to 10 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for not handing over possession respective members; and

(c) what steps have been taken to resolve the issues and to ensure handing over possession to allottee members?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) DDA has reported that as per policy/Building Bye-laws, the basement is meant for common parking and services and the same is not allotted to any individual member. It is the responsibility of the Management Committee of each Society to ensure that the basement is used only for bonafide purposes.

So far as the Delhi Cooperative Group Housing Society is concerned, the basement of the said Society was sealed by the DDA on account of unauthorised construction during the period when the area was within the jurisdiction of the DDA. Now, the area stands transferred to the MCD w.e.f. 26.11.1997. Accordingly, the relevant records of the building activities of the said Society have been transferred to the MCD.

Besides the above, a general reference has been made to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi stating that the basements constructed by various Cooperative Group Housing Societies are not being put to the prescribed use. As such, they should take further necessary action to prevent the misuse of the basements meant for common parking and services for the members of the respective Cooperative Group Housing Society.

Improvement of slums in Metro Cities

619. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister for URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of action taken to develop and improve conditions of slums in metropolitan cities to save the entire urban population from health hazard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): The problem of slum dwellers has been engaging the attention of the Government since the second Five Year Plan. Consequently, in 1956

the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956 was introduced.

In 1972, the Central Schemes of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) was introduced to improve the living environment of slum dwellers by providing minimum basic facilities. The scope of the EIUS Scheme was enlarged in 1974 and the scheme was made an integral part of the Minimum Needs Programme and was transferred to the State Sector in April 1974. The per capita assistance permissible under EIUS which was initially fixed at Rs. 120/- in 1972 was raised upto Rs. 800/- in 1995.

In August, 1996 a scheme of National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was introduced to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State/UTs for the development of Urban Slums. Under this scheme, funds are being allocated annually by the Planning Commission and releases are being made by the Ministry of Finance to States. The ACA released under this scheme can be utilised to provide physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community infrastructure, community primary health care, social amenities like pre-school education, adult education, maternity & child health and primary health care etc. It also has a provision of shelter upgradation. Under this scheme, during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 250.01, Rs. 290.99 and Rs. 353.57 crores respectively were released by the Central Government to all States/UTs. For the year 1999-2000, Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 385.08 crores out of which upto Nov., 99 Ministry of Finance has released an amount of Rs. 238.59 crores to States.

DDA to construct house in Delhi

620. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has decided/proposed to construct residential houses in Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the areas identified and when it is likely to be announced;